

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph 29 with the following amended paragraph:

**[0029]** To filter power or voltage spikes in the trigger signal, delay structure 104 delays the trigger signal incoming via input pad 102 for a sufficiently long duration so as to decrease the switching speed of transistor 108. More specifically, delay structure 104 delays the rise time of the trigger signal by slowly and controllably ramping up its voltage ~~[[one]]~~ on the rising edge. As a result, transistor 108 switches on slowly and controllably.

Please replace paragraph 40 with the following amended paragraph:

**[4000]** During a trimming operation, a decoupling of two nodes coupled by a trimming fuse occurs when the corresponding trimming fuse is trimmed. A first voltage potential, VSS in this specific embodiment, is applied to input pad 311. A second voltage potential, VDD in this specific embodiment, is applied to one or more of input pads ~~[[314, 324, and 334]]~~ 316, 326, and 336 depending on the fuses to be trimmed. Then, a trigger signal is applied to delay pad 302 to turn on the delay transistors connected to the first and second voltage potentials. When the appropriate transistors are turned on, they supply sufficient current to trim their corresponding trimming fuses in effect decoupling the nodes coupled by these trimming fuses.

Please replace paragraph 41 with the following amended paragraph:

**[4100]** The trigger signal incoming through delay pad 302 passes through delay structure 318, delay transistor 310, delay structure 328, delay transistor 320, delay structure 338 and finally reaches delay transistor 330. The rise time of the trigger signal cumulatively increases every time it passes through a delay element either integrated within a pad or in a transistor. The increased rise time results in increased filtering of voltage spikes potentially present in the trigger

signal. Every time the trigger signal passes through a transistor gate it opens the transistor and if the associated fuse has been pre-selected for trimming by connecting the associated delay pad to VDD the fuse is trimmed. The trigger signal rise time monotonically increases as it sequentially reaches transistors 310, 320 and 330, thus the transistors will turn on sequentially. Also, the filtering of spikes potentially present in the trigger signal entering delay pad 302 will increase as the [[on]] transistors 310, 320 and 330, turn on, in that order. Besides providing increasing protection against spikes in the trigger signal, the sequential turn on alleviates the load on the power supply providing VDD for the circuit, as load is distributed in time. Alternative embodiments of the present invention can also have a delay structure coupled to trimming fuse 312 via other elements. For example, a delay structure can be placed anywhere along the path between input pad 311 and trimming fuse 312. This would filter power or voltage spikes in signals coming through pad 311.